

## **E-FILING, WEB SITE USAGE RUNNING AT RECORD PACE**

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service is seeing a record surge of taxpayers filing electronically and using the IRS web site for help.

According to statistics released Friday, more than 25.1 million taxpayers filed electronically as of March 10. That's a 16.1 percent jump from last year's record pace.

The IRS e-file program also is seeing a big increase in people using home computers to file their returns. Through March 10, 2.8 million people filed from their computers – a 95.7 percent increase from last year.

Another record is being set at the IRS web site as taxpayers download tax forms and publications and find other useful information. As of March 12, The Digital Daily at *www.irs.gov* recorded 567 million hits, a 16 percent increase from the 489 million hits from the same period last year.

A visit to The Digital Daily can open the door to a wealth of tax-related resources. Taxpayers can read about the latest changes to tax laws, find answers to the most frequently asked tax questions, consult current tax tables and rate schedules, locate a local IRS office or learn about the many advantages of filing a return electronically. Also available on the Web site are hundreds of tax forms and informational publications.

Since its inception in 1996, the IRS's award-winning Web site has received 2.8 billion hits, with more than 1 billion occurring in 1999 alone.

Downloads from the IRS web site are also on the rise, reaching 89 million in 1999. This year, there were nearly 20 million downloads in January alone.

Besides the IRS web site, there are other ways to obtain IRS tax products. Tax forms, instructions and publications can be ordered over the phone by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). To receive forms and instructions by fax, contact the IRS TaxFax Service at 703-368-9694. During the first three months of the 2000 filing season, more than 580,000 forms and instructions were faxed to taxpayers.

Tax products are also available at more than 400 IRS offices nationwide and can be picked up at many post offices and libraries.

(more)

## 2000 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the week ending 3/12/99 and 3/10/00

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Individual Income Tax Returns</b>			
Total Receipts	51,805,000	52,932,000	2.2
Total Processed	40,950,000	45,085,000	10.1
<b>E-filing Receipts:</b>			
TOTAL	21,637,000	25,115,000	16.1
TeleFile (phone)	4,353,000	3,911,000	-10.2
Computer	17,284,000	21,204,000	22.7
Tax Professionals	15,853,000	18,404,000	16.1
Self-prepared	1,431,000	2,800,000	95.7

### Refunds Certified by the Martinsburg Computing Center:

Number	37,560,000	41,349,000	10.1
Amount of principal	\$61.470 billion	\$71.591 billion	16.5
Average refund	\$1,637	\$1,731	5.8

### Direct Deposit Refunds:

Number	16,569,000	20,098,000	21.3
Amount	\$34.984 billion	\$43.707 billion	